



WOB

ANNUAL
AWARDS
2016

WINNER'S
PROFILE

WOB ANNUAL AWARDS 2016 HONORARY AWARD FOR WOMEN LEADERSHIP & EXCELLENCE



Message from the First Lady

MADAM FATHIMATH IBRAHIM DIDI

WOB Maldives is loud and clear; the Maldives needs strong rules and initiatives to tackle the gender imbalance in the boardrooms. Like the EU, the Maldivian Government has already made the first cracks in the glass ceiling with the enactment of "representation of 30%". The Government will fully abide by its pledges in the Government manifesto to consider fair representation of women in leadership positions.

PRESIDENT WOMEN ON BOARDS



FATHIMATH SHAFEEGA

In Maldivian Society women are often unrecognized and unappreciated for their infinite contribution to the society. The number of women active in fulfilling the different responsibilities of the society is numerous. Regardless of the number, many generations have evolved and the role of women and their contribution to the society is being overlooked or taken as granted! This societal norm is saddening and this is the main reason why Women on Boards (WOB) has introduced its Annual Awards to acknowledge and appreciate capable women in society that have contributed to the development in different ways.

As the President of WOB - an NGO, I am happy that our NGO has taken this initiative and will continue to do so annually, In Sha Allah. We will definitely continue to appreciate women in our society and will continue inspiring more and more to succeed. The women profiled in this publication are role models for humankind who have illustrated leadership capability with humanity and have balanced

societal life and corporate life without neglecting their social responsibility towards the society. In choosing the winners of this year's WOB Annual Awards, the independent Jury Committee has reviewed the contribution in all these aspects to choose the ultimate winners in the respective categories.

I take this opportunity to thank the Jury Committee Members and especially the Chairperson of the Committee Dr. Aishath Muneeza and all the members and stakeholders of our NGO, for their unabated effort to make this dream of WOB a reality. I thank all the sponsors and partners especially Dhivehi Insurance and PSM; for their continuous support.

Last, but not least, I congratulate all the winners of WOB Annual Awards 2016! It is my humble request to all winners to become a mentor for women who needs guidance and also to nominate one woman for the next year's award whom they feel deserves recognition.

Thank You and Best Wishes

WOMEN ON BOARDS ANNUAL AWARDS 2016

WOB Annual Awards embraces the strength of exceptional working women. We also recognize the wisdom of those who facilitate these women to do so; we want them to know that their hard work and wisdom help us to achieve the shared goals of companies, organizations and of the society. Our Annual Awards provides a prestigious platform to honor outstanding and successful

professionals together with business operations that promote gender diversity.

Join us in celebrating the strength of these women and help us to show appreciation to the corporate boards that practice gender diversity. In this way, we will continue to empower and support the strength of these women who will bring about positive changes in our society.

YOUR ROLE IN EMPOWERING

It is the inevitable truth that when women are empowered socially and economically, they become;

- A driving force towards poverty eradication.
- Help to reduce gender inequality.
- Contribute to economic growth.
- All in all improve the quality of life for the community.

Educated and empowered women not only bring about changes in the workplace, they also nurture the ones at home towards a path of personal growth. We as a society admire these women and hope that they inspire others to succeed as well.

By recognizing and appreciating them, you show your on going support for their achievements.

SPONSORED BY



DHIVEHI
INSURANCE

PSM

ދިވެހިސަރުކާރުގެ
ޖުމްހޫރިއްޔާ

Public Service Media

WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN CEO IN PRIVATE SECTOR 2016



NASEEMA ZAKARIYYA

Specialisation:

Baking, Arts & Crafts

Experience: 33 years

Naseema has 33 years of experience in the professional field and was awarded President's Award in 2007 for her contributions to the community she lives in. Her work is diverse and she showcases her multitasks in all her goals in life. She has work experience in the regions: Ha, H.dh, N, B, Lh, A.dh,V, M, Dh, Tha, Gdh, S. Number of training programs conducted in these Atolls come to a total of 69 programs in 36 islands. This experience enabled her to interact with Maldivians all over the country. She is always been honored to share her knowledge. This experience was also very pleasant for her because she really likes meeting new people. She finds joy in the company of others,

teaching others fostering others.

She joined with Saba Maldives to conduct a workshop to teach Bag Making courses in 2015 and also to conduct another workshop to teach Dream Catcher Making courses in 2014. She also participated in Dhivehinge Fannu in 2013. Such experience always helps her to remember and focus on the importance of educating the community. Knowledge doesn't limit itself to a certain skill or age, this she has always believed in all her work. She bases herself on such values so that she can always continue to learn and grow.

In 1985, she opened up a business that provides trainings that encourages the creativity of the society. To showcase her talent to the community she continuously participates in fairs and events, this is also done to invite new talent to learn a new skill. In her lifetime, she has so far conducted 33 courses in Male in which ranges in: Cake Decoration, Sugar Flower, Wedding Cakes, Cup Cakes, Better Baking, Pastry Course, Paper toll, Paper Emboss, Parchment Craft, Fabric Art Painting, Glass Painting, Creative Art Painting, Pyrography, Stocking Flower, Clay Flower, Clay Molding, Screen Printing, Crystal Ornaments, Cloth Flowers, Pottery Painting, Ceramic Painting, Crochet, Paper Quilling, Punch Needle, Bead Embroidery, Ribbon Embroidery, Hand Embroidery, Machine, Embroidery Soft Toys, Dress Making, Bag Making, Household Items Sewing and Smocking.

She has been involved in developing the course schedules, syllabuses,

provided course materials and taught each and every one of the above-mentioned courses. Not limiting her self, she has proven herself in each task she puts her head in to. It has always been important for her to expand herself as much as she can, to learn new crafts to better herself. The people who supports her and stands by her plays a huge part in her success today.

It is her ultimate goal to keep sharing the knowledge she has. The arts and creative community of the society contributes to the well being of it as much as any other. It is always important to recognize the importance of encouraging and fostering it. During her starting years, she always believed that it was possible to achieve her dreams despite the obstacles one faces. It has always been her determination to keep moving forward, to always pursue her dreams because in the end of the day, achieving your dreams brings you immense joy.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



GAMEERA ADAM

Specialisation: Farming

Experience: 25 years

It would be hard to find a farmer more determined than Gameera Adam of Maldives. Although she came from a farming family on the island of Thoddoo, it's not common for women from rural communities to engage in agricultural activities with clear links to the economy on uninhabited islands. Gameera's family, however, encouraged her to be independent, and never told her she couldn't be a farmer. So when she was 17, she and her husband Ali Waheed looked for land of their own to cultivate.

Maldives is a double chain of 26 atolls, or groups of islands, in the Indian Ocean. Many are small and deserted.

Gameera found an uninhabited island. She approached the man who held the lease from the government, and who had not developed the land, and convinced him to let her family farm there. From earlier trips to the capital of Malé, a four and a half hour journey by boat from Thoddoo, Gameera had seen all sorts of fruits and vegetables at the market. In Thoddoo, most farmers had tiny plots of land and could only grow watermelons. Gameera bought a variety of seeds from Malé to plant on her new farm. With Ali Waheed, she began working the land, growing chilies, cucumbers and variety of gourds.

Her neighbours on Thoddoo did not approve. They told her farming was not appropriate work for a woman; that her skin would turn dark. But Gameera was determined to farm. After harvesting her crops, Ali Waheed took them by boat to nearby resorts and sold them. Gameera took what was left to the market in Malé. With their profits they expanded. Gameera scouted for other uninhabited islands. After a few years, she and her growing family and staff were farming on seven of them, subleasing all of them from leaseholders who had left them undeveloped.

Each time, they started with nothing: building basic infrastructure for shelter and clean water, and risking personal safety and security. And each time, the leaseholders for these islands eventually saw how well Gameera's business was doing, and demanded at least half of her profits. Gameera refused. She lost her farms, but not her determination. Instead, she went right to the top, approaching the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and explaining her plight. He agreed

to allow her to farm on an un-leased, uninhabited island, and is working to see that she gets a lease for the land. The minister recognized a pioneer when he saw one: Gameera Adam is one of only a few women that farm uninhabited islands. But she may not be the last. Another novelty about Ms Gameera is her success at bringing her farm produce to the market outside of her local community. These days she also uses her farm to demonstrate to the younger generation that farming can be a good business and provide for a good life. And that includes women.

For the future, Gameera would like her government to keep pressing the world community on climate change, as she sees soil erosion increasing on the islands. And, Gameera says: "I want them to do more to enable women to contribute to the development of Maldives through agriculture and other fields." Gameera Adam is the perfect example of the strong contributions women can make to their countries and societies.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



HAWWA LATHEEF

Specialisation: Management

Experience: 11 years

In both her primary and secondary education, she achieved the Best All round Student Award. She has a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in Accounting from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, obtained in 2004. Hawwa Latheef started her professional career at Institute of Islamic Studies (later College of Islamic Studies) as a Secretary in 1995. In 2005, she took up the post of an Assistant Lecturer at the College and continued in teaching students in this role, until her promotion to the post of Registrar in 2006. Later, she was assigned as the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of the College in 2012.

With the inception of Islamic University of Maldives, she was appointed as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) at the University by His Excellency Honorable Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayyoom, the President of Republic of Maldives. Hawwa Latheef was eagerly engaged and played the leading role in the establishment of the Islamic University of Maldives. She also played a vital role in the process of strategic planning, formulation of vision, mission, and regulations of the Islamic University.

In addition, she is actively involved in the formulation of new ideas, and

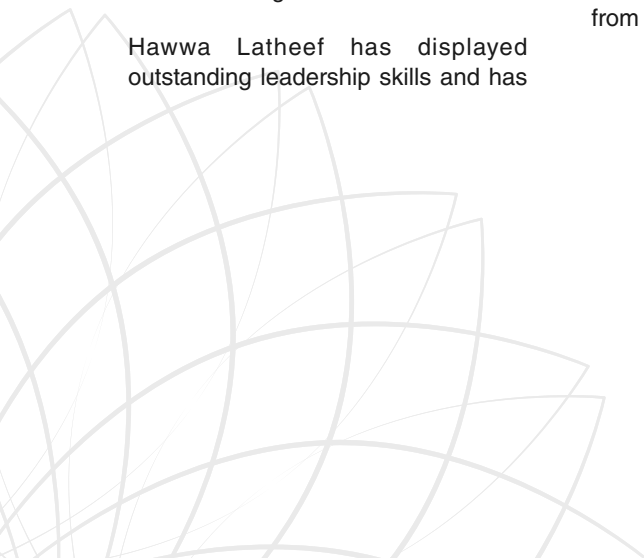
bringing creative concepts to the state of the art methodologies used in the current contexts of Islamic pedagogy that are being incorporated into the key areas of the master plan of the newly emerged University. She has also been efficiently involved in formulating and developing curriculum of different courses and academic programs of the College and the University. As a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, she plays an active role with a number of internal and external committees. She is a Vice President of Academic Board and a member of the University Majlis (Council) and also continues to serve as a member of Higher Education Master Plan Steering Committee and Advisory Committee on Training and Skill Development, where the President of the Maldives appointed her.

In addition to this, she has participated in volunteer work such as assisting and lecturing at National Drug Agency and continued teaching different modules in her profession for college/university students. At present, she also conducts awareness programs and training workshops for the Hajju and U'mra Pilgrims.

Hawwa Latheef has displayed outstanding leadership skills and has

shown remarkable organizational skills in carrying out all her tasks effectively on time, whenever a task is assigned in every time. Her exceptional performance with passion and professionalism lead her to the success in all her endeavours. This success is more evident in her efforts for the current success of the University and of the high demand the University has among the general public. Her colleagues and co-workers consider her as an inspirational leader. The recent reception of the Distinguished Women Administrator Award 2016 from Venus International Foundation, The Centre for Women Empowerment, clearly speaks of her achievements in this area.

In the current contexts of women's empowerment, she has been noticed as an emerging leader among her colleagues, with strengths including the ability to communicate well with her colleagues and having excellent teamwork capabilities. Her enthusiasm for raising issues constructively that are relevant to gender equality in leadership roles, particularly in education, has garnered attention from every sections of our society.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



AMINATH LEELA

Specialisation:

Baking & Handicrafts

Experience: 30years

Leela; her name is synonymous with handiwork. At the tender age of 10 she was a girl who loved arts and crafts rather than be studious. At 14 she was making an earning by sewing clothes. With a desire to learn new handiwork, she made flowers from different types of unique materials - stocking, fabrics, ribbon, clay, and paper and fish scales. Few years into her sewing business, she was making the most elegant wedding dresses at that time. The desire to learn new skills got her interested in baking and cake decorations.

Through her baker friend, she was introduced to the world of baking. She

took the initiative to join "Certificate Course in Pastry Making" by the school of Hotel and Catering Services in Male'. Similarly, she started training anybody with a desire to bake and decorate cakes. Her very first customers were family and friends, yet today she has served a lot of happy clients and students throughout Maldives. Leela's catering was established in 1990.

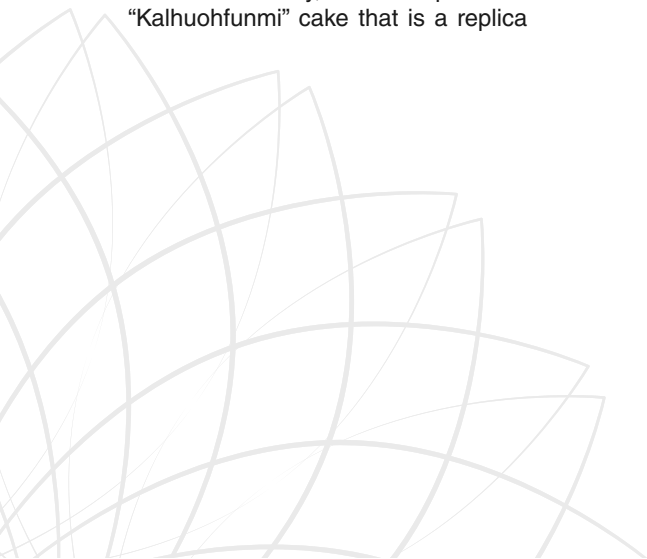
It was all a means to provide for her children as a single parent as the sole bearer of the family. In 2001, Wilton Instructors conducted the Basic, Intermediate and Advance Cake Courses in Maldives and Leela completed all three. As for

handicrafts, she did Diploma in Sugar Craft and Diploma in Creative Crafts (Mallika School of Home Science, Sri Lanka 2002). She specialized in Mirror Carving and Paper crafts. She wanted all her skills to be recognized professionally so completed Diploma Course in 2011 from Squires Kitchen - International School of Sugar Craft and Cake Decorating (Malaysia School affiliated by UK). In 2013, she completed Advanced 3D Sculpting Course on 2013 by International Centre of Cake Artistry (Malaysia). In 2016, she completed the Advance Professional Master Certificate in 2016 by the same institute.

Leela believes that people have their responsibility for the society. She has taken the initiative to voluntarily train people in cake decoration and pastries by going to atolls and conducting trainings, sometimes to eager students of 60-70 in the same session. Also she has voluntarily trained members of many clubs, associations and schools. It has brought her great joy in teaching students who have the same eagerness that she had in her. Personally, she was proud of "Kalhuohfunmi" cake that is a replica

of the Kalhuohfunmi. And the 5ft tall vase made from Fish Scales. In 2016, The Government of the Maldives awarded her "Rehendhi" Award, the most prestigious award given to women who showcases incredibility in their work in both personal and society levels.

Her achievements also include becoming a Senior Member of Singapore Royal Institute of Artists and being authorized to use the designation MRIArt(Sr). Leela is a proud mother of four children, and is very proud of her more recent establishment "Cakes and Bakes" which has been serving the Maldivians for the past five years. She is proud to have trained more than 3000 people in handicraft, pastries, sugar flowers and cake courses to date. Her dream is to continue to train more people like her and develop herself at the same time. Today, all her four children are educated responsible citizens of the Maldives. She is thankful to her parents, Ahmed Manik & Zubaidha Adam, and beloved husband, Ismail Rasheed for the endless support received throughout her journey of life.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



FATHIMATH MANIKE

Specialisation: Banking

Experience: 30years

Fathimath Manike commenced her banking career with State Bank of India, Male' Branch in June 1978. She is an experienced professional with extensive hands-on expertise combined with over 38 years of experience in the Banking and Finance Industry. Prior to the appointment of Director, Islamic Banking, Fathimath Manike was the Assistant General Manager for Development Banking, Human Resources and Operations of Bank of Maldives.

She is skilled in all management/administration roles and functions, including human resource management.

An organizer who allocates and coordinates resources, both human and material, to the best effect. Articulate and goal-oriented, a strong and practiced communicator who uses initiative, time management and confidence in a personal performance role and establishes stable relationships at all levels. Proactive and innovative with in-depth knowledge of the Banking Industry.

Fathimath Manike had been engaged in development banking activities since 1990 and held charge of all development banking activities of BML from 1992 till 2013. She is among the pioneers of development banking

in the Maldives with key strengths in portfolio of micro as well as small and medium enterprises. She has vast experience of development banking and poverty reduction by hands on experience and participating in programs held across South East Asia and Pacific and working with donor agencies like IFAD, ADB and IDB. She has taken up the new role of Islamic Banking Director in June 2013 with the challenge to set up an Islamic Banking window at Bank of Maldives.

Some of her biggest career achievements are playing a role in laying the foundation of development banking in the Maldives and developing a credit delivery capability in the outer Atolls and successfully reducing the income disparity between the outer Atolls and Male' by increasing the employment

opportunities and income levels, with particular focus on the lower income group.

She is a momentous in introducing mobile banking (Dhoni Banking) in Maldives. Through emphasis on women in the islands by various projects, she has managed to create tremendous awareness amongst women and also made them realize a part of their potential.

Her prominent role in the set up of Islamic Banking Window in BML, recognizing the significant level of demand that exists for Islamic Banking and the need to give people and business more choice, the choice to strictly follow Islamic principles in their Banking showed a new era in our community.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



SUNEETHA MOHAMED

Specialisation:

Coordinator at Ministry of
Economic Development,
Founding Member, Vice
Chairperson, Women's
Economic Development

Experience: 29 years

Suneetha Mohamed started her career in 1987, as a Telex operator in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since then she has filled many positions in public and private sector. Suneetha, has volunteered and has served as a social worker at the Ministry of Law and Gender in the Maldives since 2007, where she has more than 2000 hours of volunteer service. These included being a member of Saba Maldives and Hope for Women, being a member of different clubs at work such as the Recreation Club, and also being the Vice President of the Club along with being the VP for the Women's Development

Committee, Galholhu Ward. She acted as a treasurer for the Badminton Association, was a board member for the Bashi Ball Association and she is currently serving as a board member of the Maldives Music and Art Center.

In addition to this she has also worked in the development community for over 10 years. She is a founding member of Women's Economic Development (WED) a NGO working towards empowering and working towards development of women in the economic growth in the Maldives. She is also the Vice Chairperson for the WED. Currently, Suneetha is filling

the role of Coordinator in Ministry of Economic Development. She is deeply committed to her work and played a crucial role in organizing and leading grand Exhibitions such as Maldives Economic Expo 2015 and Heevagi Kanbalun Expo 2017.

One of the factors that makes her good at her job is that she always loves a good conversation. Pleasant and kind with a sense of humor, Suneetha pushes through her limits and works hard every day to achieve her goals. But then it all gets easier when you meet wonderful people everyday; it is one of the things Suneetha loves about life. The wonderful people that surrounds her helps and motivates her everyday to keep focusing on her goals.

Suneetha is devoted to volunteering in NGO's, Development Groups and community work in atolls. As mentioned before her participation in Hope for Women, Maldives Music and Arts (Board Member) and Woman

on Boards have helped her grow and expand herself in different ways. During her time in filling the above-mentioned positions she has raised her voice on the rights of women in Maldives and worked towards empowering women and against gender based violence in this community.

Suneetha strives to utilize every available stand in her efforts to raise awareness about the social issues in Maldives, and empowering women. She is a woman of skills, a single mother of two kids who works full time, is highly skilled in embroidery, sewing, crochet, paper crafts and cooking local delicacies. Ms. Suneetha has achieved success, through her own hard work and experience. She has proved that, success isn't a big paycheck or a designation, she believes that it's the difference you have made, the change that you have brought and the work you have done for your country. She believes it's the passion and commitment, which is the force that helps you reach success.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



AISHATH SHIRDHA

Specialisation:

Business Administration

Experience: 21 years

Shirdha started working as a Postal Officer (trainee) in Maldives Post Limited, during her 20 years of experience she moved up from one post to the other. Some of them were her moving up the ranks of a Postal Officer, from Grade 1 up to a senior officer in Grade 3. After that she became the Assistant Director and then finally, being promoted to her current post as the Assistant General Manager of Maldives Post Limited, she does feel like it's a huge accomplishment.

At work, she is in charge of internal relations and philatelic, her key roles include implementing and conduction international projects. Her commitment

to her work never wavered; she has always kept her work one of her highest priorities. To balance work life with your personal life is challenging for any one out there, specially for women who decides to have a career and succeed in it. Shirdha has always been very content with the rewards of a professional life and so chooses to balance it.

Her mother is her biggest support and motivation. Shirdha's mother took care of her as a single parent and never let her feel that she was missing anything. She learned many things from her mother who is actually giving her the most strength to move forward. She was taught how to be a strong

and independent woman, who can take care of herself. When a woman realizes her full potential, she gets the strength to move forward and not just live, but to succeed in it.

Shirdha also believes that her colleagues plays as much of a significant part in her motivation as her mother. She was very young and new when she joined Maldives Post but the team guided her in a way that it took few months for her to adjust in to the new environment. She is working in Maldives Post Limited because of the team there, their support and guidance. She puts great emphasis on the knowledge she

received from the management, the motivation they gave her, making her believe that she can always do it.

It was a turning point for her when she won the most outstanding participant award in Bangkok for a short training program. It came as a surprise but gave her a lot of strength to move forward towards new dreams. She was looking for opportunities to grow and then she received the scholarship from Maldives Post Limited, for higher studies, which again opened a whole new door. Above all she thanks Allah Subhanahu wa ta'ala, for all that she has achieved.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN MANAGER 2016



AMINATH SHARUMA

Specialisation:

Business Administration

Experience: 19 years

After completing O' levels first thing Sharuma did was to join Maldives Post Limited. In 2008 the company provided a scholarship for further studies in International Business. She completed her first Degree in International Business in the University of East London. She was selected as the one of the most outstanding student of the year 2012 and got a scholarship from the college to do Masters in Business Administration. This was a program of University of Ballarat in Australia. These experiences enabled her to accomplish her targets in the workplace.

Sharuma's career in Maldives Post started as a Junior Postal officer at the

counter in 1998. Along with the career she fulfilled various responsibility of the sales department ranging from counter supervision to manager and now as a head of business development and marketing. Being a member of postal service of the country has led her through an incredibly rewarding professional journey. The lessons and experience gained through her career has opened her up to so many professional opportunities and learning experiences.

As the head of Business department and executive director of Mail operation Division, she tries her best to make a difference by experimenting new innovative ideas to tackle

the growing e commerce and the betterment of the services provided by Maldives Post Limited.

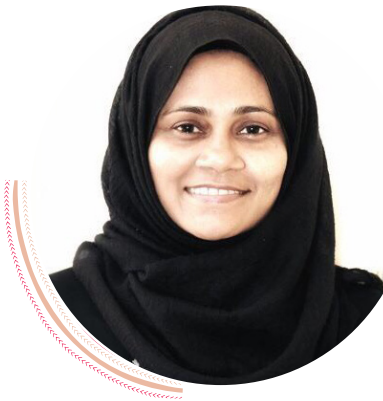
Having experience in different fields, work as a Netball coach, a volunteer in athletics field, a part time lecture (teaching for Degree and Diploma programs and delivering instruction and guiding student in deploying assignments and project papers) and in her professional career, she has gone through many challenges and obstacles. What she believes each of us encounters challenges or failure at one point or another, but what truly matters is how you handle the difficult situation and how far you learn from the failure for future success.

During her experience in academic, sports and professional career she has discovered that focus and passion plays an important role in achieving the goals. Some of her biggest achievements in life was when she won the Mathee dharaja hoadhaa faraiy thakah dhey khassa inaaam 2013 given by the President office and also when she received the Outstanding Student Award 2012 from Stamford College, Malaysia.

“With regard to the professional career, I would like to say an educational qualification will not determine how far you could climb the ladder but your attitude and the commitment to work plays a critical role to be success at your professional career.”



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST WOMAN COMPANY SECRETARY 2016



AISHATH NATHEELA

SHAREEF

Specialisation:

Company Secretary

Experience: 30 years

Natheela has always been one to aim for the stars. This literally means putting her best foot forward in everything she does. When she first started her professional career as a youngster, she was excited for what was to come and she was prepared to give it her best. In her 30 years of experience she has continued her belief in herself, which had rewarded her with success.

She has been working as the Executive Secretary of SIMD I since 2009. Her main job revolves around performing secretarial duties to the Executive Team of SIMD I and she performs her job roles with perfection.

In addition, with her positive attitude, her presence has such significant impact on SIMD I Group as a whole. She always goes the extra mile to accomplish the tasks and always gets it done before the deadline. She has consistently and successfully proved her worth in SIMD I and not failed any of the endeavors that have been assigned to her.

Natheela has proven to be a motivating team leader as well, she possess diligence and enthusiasm, which are important qualities in a leader. She participates in office activates and applies herself to trainings to better herself further. This consistency and

never ending commitment in her work and attitude towards her professional work helps her to go beyond herself and achieve the tasks of an executive secretary.

Some of the most significant factors of motivation for her comprises of her support system in work and outside work. Natheela strongly feel's that SIMDI is a company that paves the way for any man or woman who is willing and trying to succeed in life. It is always important for someone who is looking for a professional career to be at an excellent work environment. Natheel feels very lucky to be part of such a company that follows impeccable ethics and treats everyone fairly, and with respect. She would also like to thank all those people who she has outside work; they grow her determination as well.

Natheela with her outstanding qualities has set a new benchmark for all the Company Secretaries and has taken SIMDI to new heights. Her thoroughness; preciseness and vigilance in her work certify her to be the best at what she does. Natheela was highly praised by SIMDI when they nominated her for this award. There is no doubt that hard work and determination can make you one of the greatest pioneers in your field, Natheela is proof of that.

Natheela strongly believes that it is important for the youth of this community to understand, that it takes great practice and commitment to get the best out of you in every situation. So if you apply yourself to something, it's of utmost importance for you to not give up.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



DR. MARIYAM

SHAHUNEEZA

NASEER

Specialisation:

**Curriculum, Instruction &
Assessment**

Experience: 11 years

Dr. Mariyam Shahuneeza Naseer is currently employed at the Islamic University of Maldives as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation). She has a Doctor of Education in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment specializing in Algebra. Dr. Shahuneeza has presented at various international research conferences, published in international academic journals, and has worked as a Scientific Committee member of the 11th Annual Education and Development Conference 2016 that took place from 5-7 March 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. At the moment, she is also working as the Chairperson of International Conference on Statistics, Mathematics, and Actuarial Science (ICSMAS 2017) organized by MNNF Network, Malaysia and is the Chief Editor of ICSMAS Review and SMAS

Journal published by MNNF Publisher, Malaysia.

As a Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Specialist Dr. Shahuneeza has been directing the curriculum development team in designing, creating, revising, and structuring content, activities, and materials with a focus on instructional delivery methods that are best suited for the learning environment and student experience. In addition, she has been preparing, monitoring, and revising mathematics and mathematics education curriculum; developing and revising teaching materials; coordinating, evaluating, and quality assurance of curriculum delivery, implementation, and assessment. Her contribution to the curriculum development has been recognized internationally and

she has received Venus International Women Awards 2017.

Dr. Shahuneeza also lectures students enrolled in Master's Degree Programmes and Undergraduate Programmes since 2011 on Data Analysis for Management Decisions; Quantitative Research Methods; Quantitative Analysis using Statistics; Quantitative Research Methods in Health; Biostatistics; Quantitative Research Methodology; Statistics for Educational Research; Mathematics; Research Methodology; Statistics and Data Management; Models and Methods of Data Assessment; Mathematics for Management; Quantitative Methods for Accountancy and Finance; Research Methods for Business Students; Learning and Teaching of Mathematics I; Teaching Numbers in the Early Years II; Mathematics for Primary Teachers; Introductory Algebra; Mathematics Education I; Mathematics Education II; Essential Mathematics; Fundamental Mathematics; Intermediate Mathematics; Advanced Mathematics and Statistics; Foundational Mathematics 1; and Foundational Mathematics 2.

Academic Honours and Awards Dr. Shahuneeza has received include Young Women in Social Science 2017 for the contribution and achievement

in the field of Curriculum Development, Presentation Honorarium 2016, Thila Uthuru Uthama Aruthaveringe Award of Recognition 2015 for the Contributions to the Education Sector, Thila Uthuru Uthama Aruthaveringe Award for Special Achievement 2015, Golden Key International Honour 2013, National Award for Special Achievement 2012, and The Dean's List Award 2010.

Dr. Shahuneeza has served on the Academic Board of the Islamic University of Maldives as a member appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Maldives. Currently she serves on the Postgraduate Admission Committee of the Islamic University of Maldives as the member appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Maldives. In addition, Dr. Shahuneeza currently serves as University Council Ex-Officio Member of the Islamic University of Maldives, appointed by the President of the Maldives and also Academic Board Ex-Officio Member of the Islamic University of Maldives, appointed by the President of the Maldives. She is also the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee of the Islamic University of Maldives. Dr. Shahuneeza conducts Research Workshops and Professional Development Seminars on pro bono basis as part of her community service.

WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



IRUM SABA

Specialisation:

Economics, Finance, Islamic
Banking

Experience: 12 years

Saba has more than 12 years of progressive regulatory, research, training and teaching experience with organizations of international repute. She has the honor to be first Pakistani female to be part of International Shariah Advisory Boards in South East Asia and Middle East. She is honorary secretary of the Chartered Institute of Islamic Finance Professionals (CIIF), Malaysia. She is also the Chair of ICIFE Pakistan Chapter.

She is Assistant Professor in Institute of Business Administration, Karachi. She is program director of MS Islamic Banking and Finance at IBA. She is also coordinator of Academics and Research at Centre for Excellence

in Islamic Finance (CEIF)-IBA. She delivers training both at local and international levels in addition to teaching, research and administrative work. She has written several articles and chapters in books on the topics of corporate governance, Islamic finance and Islamic microfinance.

Her responsibilities include being the Assistant Professor of the Department of Economics and Finance in IBA, Pakistan. She also acts as the Honorary Secretary of Chartered Institute of Islamic Finance Professionals (CIIF) in Malaysia. She is also a member of the Shariah Board in Addengreens, UAE and a coordinator of Academics and Research Centre

for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF) in IBA Pakistan. She also plays a key role as the program Director, MS Islamic Banking and Finance in IBA Pakistan and the Chair of ICIFE Pakistan Chapter.

She has extensive regulatory experience with specific focus to promote Islamic banking and Finance while working in the Islamic Banking Department of State Bank of Pakistan - The Central Bank. She has also contributed to the promotion and growth of Takaful industry while working with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

She is a Shariah-registered financial planner (Shariah RFP). She holds the Chartered Islamic Finance Professional (CIFP) credential from INCEIF with distinction and PhD in Islamic Finance from INCEIF. She holds a Master in Commerce (M.Com) with distinction and PGD in Islamic Banking and Insurance from Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance (IIBI), London. Her areas of interest are Shariah, Wealth planning and Management, Islamic microfinance, corporate governance and Islamic finance.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



NAFHA FAROOQ

Specialisation:

Presenter MVTV, CFO

Women and Democracy Ngo

Experience: 7 years

Nafha Farooq is one of the rising young professionals in the country best known as a presenter and speaker and is an active member of the civil society and an advocate for Women's empowerment. At a young age, this 19 year old has started to make her mark through various fields. Nafha is currently working a presenter for the local TV channel MVTV after graduating A' Levels. Due to her love for public speaking and presenting, she has been in the field since 2010, when she was only 13 years old. She started her career in presenting in the state-media Dhivehi Raajjeyge Adu as a presenter for radio shows. She was a voluntary presenter in Dhivehi Raajjeyge Adu till 2016 doing live

shows, special edition programmes and other programmes as well in both Dhivehi and English mostly for educational and entertainment genres targeting young audiences.

In MVTV she does a morning talk show, which also helps her to cover stories on rising artists, entrepreneurs, public figures, NGOs, and other institutions. She also does a religious programme that focus on Islamic context and political talk show that focus on current affairs as well. She is currently working on a TV Series called 'Hiyahemi' meaning 'big-hearted or kind-hearted women' in Old Dhivehi featuring prominent female figures in different fields. She hopes that this

programme promotes women and fights clichés by creating meaningful dialogue about the different fields that such exemplary women work in whilst inspiring the society.

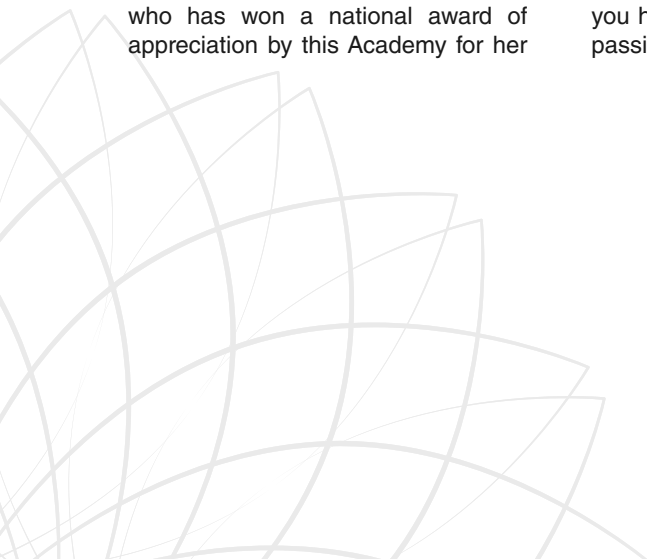
Nafha also makes it a goal to contribute to society in other ways. Today She is one of the youngest Chief Operating Officer's appointed to a non-profit in the Maldives- Women & Democracy. Women and Democracy is a recently established NGO that works towards economic and political empowerment of women and promoting women in leadership and policymaking.

Public speaking being one of her strengths, she has addressed in several national ceremonies and seminars. From 2014 onwards she now plays her role in coaching those younger, the skill of public speaking and debate as well for National Competitions. Her love for Maldivian language especially, along with our culture, heritage and history was one of the causes for her active involvements in several activities and events for Dhivehi Language Academy and she is one of the youngest people who has won a national award of appreciation by this Academy for her

diligent contributions in helping to promote Maldivian language, culture and heritage.

As a previous student she has always been an active leader in student affairs as the School Captain of two years and achieving the best-all-round student award in her secondary school. She is an achiever of 1st place in the national top 10 achievers of both O' levels and A' levels and her active participation in an organizing level as a Student and volunteer since a young age has led her to become someone who faces challenges, breaks barriers and is target-oriented.

She believes in the importance of establishing democratic values and the essentiality of empowered women in ensuring that every voice is heard. She hopes to utilize her strengths to raise concern and become a catalyst for better change. "I think this country has incredible potential. I want to use my strengths, my knowledge and the experience I gain to take action now, to speak up now and to play my part in society. I have come to find that no matter how hard your fight is, if you have a strong will and an honest passion, you'll make it."



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



AMINATH SHAYAAN

SHAHID

Specialisation: Management
Experience: 14 years

Aminath Shaayan Shahid was born on the 4th of April 1987. Today she is a dedicated person with a family of 3, a mother of a beautiful 2-year-old daughter. She has been successful at raising a family, and attributes this success to her ability to plan, schedule, and handle many different tasks at once. She is also a very committed and result oriented person who has completed her first class honor Degree at Limkokwing University of creative Technology on December 2009 with a Business Management experience for the last 10 years, over that time she have served several leadership roles. She has an experience of working as a Marketing Manager (Head of

Business Unit) at one of the state Owned trading Company named State trading Organization PLC from 31st May 2010 till 10th August 2011. Furthermore she has worked as a Human Resource Manager and Administration Managerial capacity at a Multi-national Airline Company named MEGA Maldives Airlines since December 2012 till December 2014. Accordingly she has the experience as the Public relation Manager at the same Company from December 2014 till April 2015.

At Present She is the Deputy Managing Director and board member of the National Media Company known as Public Service Media. Besides, she is the chairperson of

the governance and remuneration committee of the Governing Board of Public Service Media. Her very first job experience was at Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) on June 2003 as Admin Officer. Since September 2003 she switched her job to Admin Officer at Villa Shipping and Trading and worked at this company for a year.

She started her job at State trading Organization on the 12th of July 2004 and served the organization for 7 consecutive years. She first joined the organization as the secretary at IT Department. With her endless contribution and effort, within few years time she was promoted to Sales Manager Gr3 at STO super market and Organizational change Manager/ OCM Lead for SAP implement Project. Throughout the employment at STO she took the initiative by leading several events. Likewise she organized STO Dinner Night 2007 Show event and organized Town hall Meeting to all STO staff. She was the Leading

Manager for the STO Blood donation camp and Promotions conducted for the year 2010 and 2011. She was the Manager to run STO Road shows and similar events. Also represented STO for Hitachi Distributorship Seminar.

Maldivian Idol Season 1: Well, this was the dream project of hers! The very first franchise reality show in Maldives. As the project head of Maldivian Idol season 1, she faced a lot of hurdles and challenges to reach to the success of this show. Another proud moment of hers, being the project head of the very first franchise reality show in Maldives, Maldivian Idol season 1 winner Laisha Junaid representing Maldives at ABU TV song festival, which was held in Bali, Indonesia on October 2016.

After she was appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of Public service Media, she has successfully represented Public service media in different seminars, conferences and meetings abroad.



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



**MARIYAM MEENA
HUSSAIN**

Specialisation:
Pre School Principal
Experience: 6 years

Mariyam has always been enthusiastic and a very committed person with natural ability to appreciate and inspire children. Known as a role model for students and other staff members. Effectively deal with students from foundation stage till key stage 2. (Children age 2 to 11/12). She opened the door for preschool education for the students in the entire island of Ga. Gemanafushi since 2011 and 2 years educating the young children voluntarily without any fee (baby nursery, nursery, LKG & UKG).

It has been a pleasure for Mariyam to share her knowledge and skills with the children of the island. It is indeed

a blessing to be part of fostering the youth of Ga. Gemanafushi.

She is a well-presented, inspirational person who is committed to raising standards, ensuring that students acquire and consolidate knowledge, skills and understanding and has an intense working knowledge of a teachers' professional duties and legal liabilities, and is a great team member with a proven record of coordinating a curriculum area. Mariyam receives a lot of support from the community she is based in; this drives and motivates her to do better everyday. The appreciation she receives from her parents is also important for her to keep doing better.

Her work experience includes working as a teacher/leading teacher since 2010 at Gemanafushi School, working as a Professional Development coordinator at Gemanafushi School, working as the Principal voluntarily since 2011 at Zamaanee Preschool (ZPS) and teaching and participating in organizing events. Mariyam is known to possess the ability to multitask in a fast paced environment. Known for assisting with the implementation of school programs including field trips, sports meets and student exhibitions.

Mariyam also works as the secretary of women's branch in Gold Jamiyya Ga. Gemanafushi. She understands the importance of working for the empowerment of women and so distributes her time among her work and voluntary activities. For a workingwoman she not just balances

her work and voluntary activities, but also her family that comprises of her young daughter and her husband. For her, her biggest inspiration has been her mother who has always shown her that she can dream and achieve any goal, given that she is prepared to work for it.

"In such a society where women needs to be empowered, I would like to highlight the importance of the support we receive everyday, from our parents and family, from our husbands and children. This support helps us to go out into the world, achieve our goals and provide our country with the services it requires from us. It helps us get up, if life ever decides to knock you down. I am able to carry this support with me; it gives me the strength to teach my kids in school and class."



WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



HMATH ASHWA

FAHEEM

Specialisation:

Photographer

Experience: 7 years

The Maldives can be a challenging place for a woman to dedicate her career to a profession like photography. But Ashwa has always believed in not limiting her goals just based on restrictions or ways of thinking that have long been considered societal norms. On the contrary, Ashwa encourages women of all ages not to give up on their hearts' desires and to stay true to one's own values regardless of the opinion of others. Ashwa herself faced many obstacles as a female photographer, but the places the camera has taken her and the people she has met along the way, has been rewarding and made every struggle to overcome

the hurdles worthwhile. From being on expeditions to climb the highest mountain in West Malaysia or walking in virgin forests to document the works of scientists in Borneo, she has never shied away from an opportunity just because it was challenging or labelled 'unwomanly'. However, her true passion lays in utilising photography as a visual medium of storytelling- the stories of the often forgotten or overlooked.

She immersed herself in journalistic photography during some of the most turbulent times in modern Maldivian history, between 2011 and 2014. By always standing in the front

line, be it during a violent protest or a state function, Ashwa through her images, brought the tears of a mother mourning the loss of her son, the smiles of a jubilant nation celebrating a football victory, the solemnity of dignitaries on state visits, the fervour of protestors standing up for their rights, and the vivacity of politicians on their campaign trails, into people's homes; she became the eye for many Maldivians who couldn't be there to witness it themselves.

Even during a time when media was swamped by politics, she still managed to find the time, many a time at odd hours, for her own 'passion projects' and to turn her lens to tell the stories of the less fortunate. Ashwa's photo stories on the questionable living conditions for many in the densely-populated capital Male', the plight of expat workers in undesirable working environments, and the unseen 'midnight angels' who keep our streets clean, often spoke out poignantly on behalf of her subjects and served as an eye opener for many who could then no longer ignore how the other half lived.

During the time of her Masters in Photography, through the medium of photography Ashwa explored sensitive and difficult issues such as FGM, which is still common amongst many communities in Africa as well as their

diaspora worldwide, and the West's stereotyping and prejudice towards the hijab. Ashwa has always believed that photography is a medium that is understood universally regardless of one's social status, gender, political standing, or ethnicity.

Her experiences and endeavours thus far makes her trust in the power of photography in connecting the lives and stories of individuals whose paths wouldn't otherwise intersect. It is these beliefs that has made her dedicate the past 6 years of her life documenting social issues both nationally and internationally, and hopes to bring about social change for those who need it most, and anticipate that her images fall on the eyes of individuals or organisations who have the benevolence and capacity to bring about such change.

At a time when social media can be utilised to allow photography and the other mediums of art to have their greatest ever reach in history, Ashwa bases her work on the fact that; "... Our country is at a point where we are capable, and desperately in need of, creating common awareness about social, political and environmental issues, to end apathy and idleness, and to encourage both men and women to work alongside each other in bringing about the positive change we believe our society deserves."

WOB DISTINCTION & AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG WOMAN PROFESSIONAL 2016



RAIDHA ISMAIL

SHAFEEG

Specialisation:

Fashion Designing

Experience: 5 years

Born in Maldives (1998) Raidha Shafeeg began her career studying fashion design in Northumbria university UK at AOD (Academy of Design) in Sri Lanka. Graduating from the Academy of Design in 2010 Raidha came back to Maldives with the hope of launching her own brand and creating a label that speaks to modern women in a way that no other designer has ever done before. Her youthful charm, her elegance, her eye for beauty has led her through the path of making woman beautiful. She dresses women to be confident and who never shies away from taking risks. For over five years her passion an inborn talent has combined to

envision masterpieces that exude feminist and sensuality with a creative touch that is all her own.

And now after spending the last few years working on perfecting her craft and learning new techniques through the process, Raidha is back to amaze us with her creative approach to luxury ready to wear collections. Her enthusiasm and her exuberated confidence are some of the strongest suits she has and she wears them extremely well. The passion she has for art and design and how she sees the world and takes inspiration from the earth to the air she breathes in manifests on the ramp. Channeling

Coco Chanel in her work studio to feeling like Diane Von Furstenburg the princess of fashion.

She is one to watch out for in the industry.

She is welcoming all women to her atelier opened since January of 2015 to view her collections and place custom bespoke orders. Focusing on girls and women from the ages 15 and above, Raidha's Atelier is fast running and open for business and she plans on connecting to her niche and selling her collection via her online shopping portal which was established on the 15th of November and her soon to be flagship store in the city. Bringing modernity and elegance into modern Maldivian women making them feel at ease while looking their absolute best, Raidha plans on staying for long and will stay for long.

Raidha Shafeeg is the founder and owner of brand Raidha's Maldives. Raidha's Maldives is a clothing brand

of Maldives based in Male' city and the first Maldivian Clothing brand selling internationally which was founded in 2015 by Raidha Shafeeg. The Brand Sells Woman's Clothing, which are specially manufactured in Sri Lanka and Maldives. The brand is famous for designing unique, minimal yet elegant, such as tops and dresses, from ready to wear garments to party dresses with the latest trends.

Her belief in hard work has paved her the way to make her lifelong dream become a reality.

"Waiting for the launch of the brand has been nerve wrecking as everything has to be perfect," says the enthusiastic designer. "I have to know every single detail of every single piece; the type of fabric, the quality of the fabric and where it comes from. Everything matters, and having travelled all parts of the world finding the best material, I am very proud of what I have produced. This is a proud moment for me."





DHIVEHI
INSURANCE

SPONSORED BY

